

Cowboy



Photo courtesy of Rusty Allen

Rusty Allen of Lehi has control of his mount during bull-riding competition at state finals rodeo.

Lehi cowboy's devotion to rodeo impresses those who know him

Cowboy enjoys life as 'babysitter' for cattle

21 Aug 1989

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) — Bob Disney is rolling a cigarette in his primitive cowboy cabin deep in the Gros Ventre Mountains. He pinches tobacco from a cowhide pouch and forms a creamy white cigarette that contrasts with his roughly lined face and the dusty surroundings of the cabin.

Except for a plastic Mini Mart cup, the scene is reminiscent of a movie set for a Western. A bottle of Canadian Lord Calvert blended whiskey stands next to several decks of cards, which look right at home next to his .357 Colt revolver that serves as a "last resort in case of bear attack."

But this isn't a Western movie or a Marlboro advertisement. The man with the cigarette is a real cowboy and he spends his days doing what real cowboys do — looking after cattle.

"If I miss people all I've got to do is go to the Cowboy Bar (in Jackson) for a couple of hours and I've had my fill of noise and humans."

Lucases that give people like me a job like this," he said, referring to the Phil Lucas family of Spring Gulch. "When you've got only yourself to satisfy, it's not too hard."

His satisfaction with the herder's life is tempered with a concern for the future. He has heard the slogan of environmentalists who are opposed to grazing cattle on national forest lands: "Cattle Free by '93."

"I'd hate to see it," he said. "The grass is here and it ain't costing the Forest Service nothing. Well I guess it does cost something, but it would be a shame to take cattle off this land. These recreationalists, they don't know that these cattle were here a heck of a lot longer than even their ancestors."

He can rest assured that the forest plan for the Bridger-Teton National Forest maintains the interests of the local livestock industry.

According to Fred Kingwill, public affairs officer for the forest, "Our forest plan basically maintains the livestock industry at current levels with only minor reductions, if any. But this is a political world and I can't tell you what will happen five or 10 years down the road in terms of legislation."

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drives them to their flygrounds. He checks for any sort of sickness, such as foul foot, scours, pink eye and bloat.

Following Forest Service regulations, he keeps them out of clearcut areas. He also keeps them away from poisonous plants like larkspur and water hemlock. He makes sur-

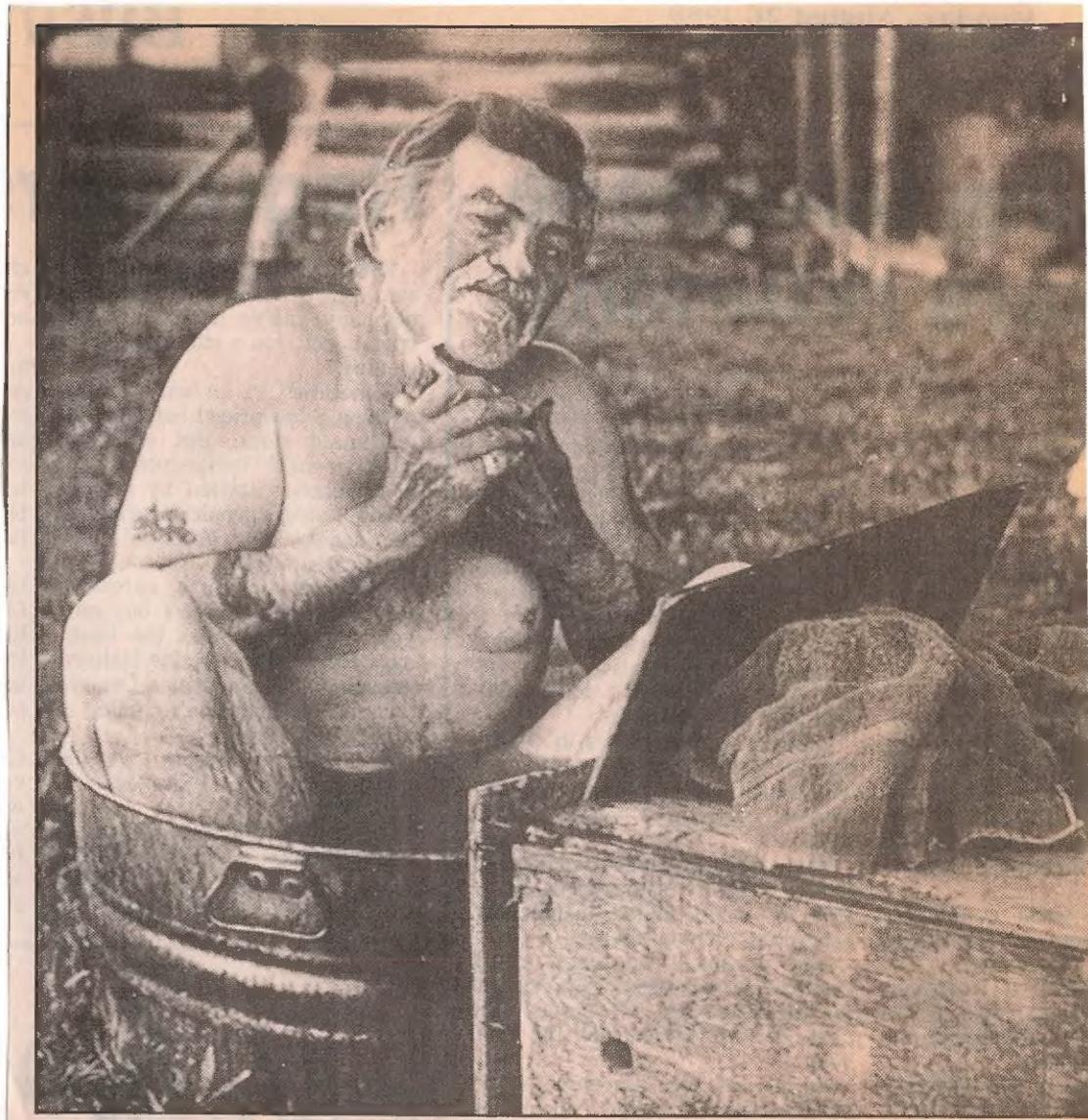
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Cowboy Bob Disney bathes in a tub of water he warmed on a campfire.